CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A method of reading images, comprising the steps of:

decimating an image;

normalizing the decimated image histogram;

rebinning grayscale pixel data associated with the decimated image;

reassigning a selected range of gray scales representing a region of interest of the remapped grayscale pixel data to one while zeroing others;

labeling the connected pixels associated with the range of gray scales representing the region of interest;

joining and extending the connected pixels through region growing using a pre-selected offset value; and

filtering segmented regions of the connected pixels to eliminate certain candidates.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the grayscale pixel data of the decimated image is remapped from 8 bits to fewer than 8 bits.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the image is a parcel image.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the parcel image has a low contrast compared to a background.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the filtering step includes ranking candidates for pre-sort labels or locating corners of the candidates for white labels.

6. A system for reading images, comprising:

means for decimating an image;

means for normalizing the decimated image histogram;

means for rebinning grayscale pixel data associated with the decimated image;

means for reassigning a selected range of grayscales representing a region of interest of the remapped grayscale pixel data to one while zeroing others;

means for labeling the connected pixels associated with the range of grayscales representing the region of interest;

means for joining and extending the connected pixels through region growing using a pre-selected offset value; and

means for filtering segmented regions of the connected pixels to eliminate certain candidates.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the grayscale pixel data of the decimated image is remapped from 8 bits to fewer than 8 bits.

8. The system of claim 6, the means for filtering includes means for ranking candidates for pre-sort labels or locating corners of the candidates for white labels.

9. A machine readable medium containing code for reading images, comprising the steps of:

decimating an image;

normalizing the decimated image histogram;

rebinning grayscale pixel data associated with the decimated image;

reassigning a selected range of grayscales representing a region of interest of the remapped grayscale pixel data to one while zeroing others;

labeling the connected pixels associated with the range of grayscales representing the region of interest;

joining and extending theconnected pixels through region growing using a pre-selected offset value; and

filtering segmented regions of the connected pixels to eliminate certain candidates.